

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
POOR RELIEF HEARING
DECEMBER 19, 2002**

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners met on Thursday, December 19, 2002 at 10:00 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President John L. Knochel and Vice President KD Benson; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, County Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd and Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston were absent.)

President Knochel called the meeting to order.

POOR RELIEF HEARING: Katrina Scott vs Wabash Township Trustee

Mrs. Scott, 2911 Horizon Dr., Apt. 2, W. Laf. was present to appeal her denied request of \$1,200 for rent assistance from the Wabash Township Trustee.

No representative from Wabash Township was present.

Attorney Luhman explained the procedures and Mrs. Scott was sworn in.

Mrs. Scott said she applied for \$1,200 rent assistance but was sent a letter of denial from the Trustee on December 8, 2002 because:

- ♦ The Township is not obligated to provide assistance for households receiving TANF. (She began receiving TANF assistance on December 1, 2002.)
- ♦ Mrs. Scott's husband did not complete a work order from the Township in September 2002 to receive \$221.

Mrs. Scott said she would have completed the work order herself but was told it could only be done during daytime hours and she had no one to care for her young child (now only 10 months old). She noted that her husband is no longer a member of the household.

Attorney Luhman noted the Commissioners received a faxed copy of a letter dated December 16, 2002 from the Township's Attorney Steven Buschmann and confirmed that Mrs. Scott received the same with attached documents as exhibits:

- ♦ Copy of the work assignment for David and Katrina Scott.
- ♦ Copy of Notice of Poor Relief Action dated December 8, 2002
- ♦ Copies of relevant Statutes and relevant Township Standards

President Knochel established that Mr. Scott was a member of the household at the time of the work order and inquired what type of work was assigned. Mrs. Scott responded they were to work 42 hours for Klondike Middle School doing janitorial work. She said she asked the Trustee if the work could be done at night when her husband could watch their child but was told that the work could only be done during daytime hours.

When she applied for assistance in December, Mrs. Scott said she explained to the Trustee that her husband was no longer a member of the household. She now has two jobs and her child is in day care. Mrs. Scott went to other sources for help and received assistance from Area IV for Electricity and Gas, EmployAbilities' Welfare to Work Program for rent, Central Presbyterian Church, the Salvation Army, and Lafayette Urban Ministry. She said her water bill is caught up, and she is working to pay her phone bill. Although she is doing all she can, she still has November and December rent bills to pay. She is sure others on TANF have received help, but that was the main reason for her denial.

Attorney Luhman stated that Mrs. Scott and the Township can submit written Findings of Fact of this appeal to the Commissioners by 4:30 P.M., Monday, December 23, 2002. The Commissioners will then have five (5) working days to reach a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Benson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

John L. Knochel, President

KD Benson, Vice President

Ruth E. Shedd, Member

ATTEST:

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor